

DISCUSSION OF PRIOR ART

A. The Rifkin Security Ballot Pouch is a tamper-proof ballot pouch used to store ballots and to prevent their unauthorized removal. While the Rifkin pouch does have a slot for ballots, it is designed for punch card ballots or smaller ballots rather than for the type of ballots used in scanning and tabulating ballot machines. Rifkin shows a ballot pouch but it is of only general interest in this field.

B. The Narey patent discloses a ballot for use with a scanning device that reads the ballot and feeds it to a tallying or accumulating machine. Narey is of general interest in the field in that it discloses the use of a ballot that is filled in by the voter and read by a scanning device or machine. Narey does not disclose any type of ballot sleeve to insure the privacy of the voter.

C. Suovaniemi discloses a code system for the identification of a sample group of colored in dots. Suovaniemi utilizes a multi-channel photometer or other type of multi-channel analysis equipment such as would be used in a ballot scanning and tabulating device. Suovaniemi does not direct itself to the problem of keeping the ballot secret by the use of a cover but is of general interest in the field.

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